

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multi-host data processing network including a local host and a remote host, comprising:

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a terminal including a display, a keyboard, and a pointing device;

a display server on the local host associated with a user of the terminal, wherein the display server enables the user to execute GUI applications on the local and remote hosts from the terminal via a display server authorization mechanism; and

wherein the network is configured to enable the user to execute a command entered at the terminal on the remote host via the display server.

2. The network of claim 1, wherein the local host includes a client application and the remote host includes a daemon process, wherein the client application is enabled to receive the command from the user and the daemon process is configured to retrieve and execute the command.

3. The network of claim 2, wherein the daemon process is configured to monitor changes to a property of the display server, and further wherein the client application is configured to alter the display server property upon receiving the command.

4. The network of claim 2, wherein the daemon process is configured to open a display server window and to store a window id of the display server window as the display server property and wherein the client application is configured to change the display server property to zero upon receiving the command.

5. The network of claim 4, wherein the client application is enabled to transfer the received command to a clipboard associated with the display server window and wherein the daemon

process is enabled to retrieve the command from the clipboard upon detecting a change to the display server property.

6. A distributed network windowing system computer program product enabling remote execution in a data processing network including a local host and a remote host, the computer product comprising:

a display server on the local host, wherein the display server enables a user of a display terminal connected to the network to invoke local and remote GUI applications;

a client application on the local host connected to the display server and configured to receive a command string and, upon receiving the command string, to paste the command string to a clipboard; and

a daemon process on the remote host configured to retrieve the command string from the clipboard and further configured to initiate execution of the command on the remote host.

7. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the daemon process is configured, upon initiation, to open a display window in the display server and to store the display window id in a property of the display server.

8. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the client application is configured, upon receiving the command string to read the property of the display server, and to re-set the display server property to zero.

9. The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the daemon process is configured to retrieve the command string from the clipboard responsive to detecting an alteration to the display server property.

10. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein, upon initiating the windowing system,

the daemon process creates a window in the display server and stores the window id as the display server property.

11. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the client alters the display server property by changing the display server property to zero.

12. A method of executing a command, comprising:

creating a first window with a first process;

storing the first window's id as a property of a display server;

monitoring for alterations in the display server property with the first process;

entering a command string via a client application, wherein, upon receiving the command string, the client is configured to alter the display server property; and

upon detecting the alteration in the display server property, retrieving the text string and executing the text string as a command.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the first process resides on a remote host of a multi-host data processing system, the client reside on a local host of the system, and the test string is executed as a command on the remote host.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the command comprises a command shutting down the remote host.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the command comprises a command invoking an application residing on the remote host.

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16. The method of claim 12, wherein the command string is entered by a user of a terminal controlled by the display server.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein, upon receiving the command string, the client is configured to store the text string in a clipboard associated with the first window.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein retrieving the text string comprises retrieving the text string from the clipboard.

19. The method of claim 12, further comprising, prior to creating the first window, logging into a local host of a multi-host computer system, wherein upon logging in, a windowing system initiates the display server and creates an authorization file associated with a user and by which applications connect to the display server.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein the display server enables execution of local and remote GUI applications from a terminal served by the display server.

21. The method of claim 12, wherein the altering of the display server property by the client application comprises the client application writing the display server property to zero.

22. The method of claim 12, wherein the display server comprises an X Server of an X Window System.